



2023 NCAA Baseball Nashville Regional

Postgame Quotes

Game 3 • June 3, 2023

#4 Eastern Illinois vs. #3 Xavier



#4 Eastern Illinois Panthers

Head Coach Jason Anderson

Opening statement...

"I mean, it was kind of one-sided. I always tell our guys our goal with every single game is to go out and make the other team beat us. It's a pretty simple thing, and that's what happened today. The pitching on their side was fantastic. He didn't leave any openings at all whatsoever for us out there. And if we're going to end our season, which has been a pretty special one—everyone on the team will tell you that—that's how we want to go out. We want someone to take it from us. Between his pitching performance and that at bat by [Andrew]Walker, they played a heck of a game."

On Xavier starting pitcher Ethan Bosacker...

"He just threw strikes. He hit a leadoff guy, and then I think the next pitch he got a double-play ball. He got strikeouts. They played flawless defense. We're not an offense that's electric that's gonna throw 15 runs up on the board. We gotta play small ball and we gotta pitch and we gotta play defense, and he took all that stuff away from us."

On this experience as a veteran team...

"The whole experience, from the entire year and the group and the senior class, I just hope it takes them to the next step in life. Because this is what hard work is. This is what dedication is. This is 6 a.m. in the morning. This is being dedicated to one coach, one school and showing up every day and playing for each other and lifting each other up. We've had guys all year that were up and down, slumps, we had a couple guys that could carry us and lead us, but everybody else on the team has been what baseball is. And I just hope they realize that and they take it into the next stages of their life, whether that's playing baseball next year or going into pro ball or the real world."

On this experience for the program moving forward...

"It's huge, even for the incoming guys to show that anything's possible. For other teams in the league that maybe were where we were five or six years ago. But it's not an easy thing. It's day in and day out. It takes time and it takes progress and it takes buy in. I don't know how to put it into words. I've had this feeling one other time, and that was when I made the major leagues. I've searched for a long time to get that feeling again and I got it."

#3 Xavier Musketeers

Head Coach Billy O'Conner

Opening statement...

"We talked yesterday about knowing our team would respond to adversity well and I think they did a great job of that today. Yesterday was a tough day. It wasn't our best day as a team. But we really came out today with something to us and competed right away. Obviously Ethan [Bosacker] set the tone for us with the way he threw the ball. Walk [Andrew Walker] had a big three-run home run to create some separation there, but those guys set the tone for us today. It was a great day for our guys. Any time to get a win in the NCAA tournament, it's a special day. And especially after as tough as yesterday was, to bounce back and get a good win today was meaningful for our guys."

On the first win as a head coach in a regional...

"It was good. Winning is fun. Winning is way better. It's a lot more fun to sit up here on this podium today than it was yesterday losing. Like those guys just said, we don't feel like we're done. We weren't just happy to be here. We weren't just happy to get one win. We're gonna give it a shot at a really good team tomorrow, whether it be Vanderbilt or Oregon. So we're excited to go out there and compete. There's not a level of satisfaction yet. One day, we'll look back and say that it was cool to win that game but there's no complacency. There's none of that stuff right now. We're ready to go tomorrow. In some ways I wish we were playing this evening. I think we're in a good spot right now. We're excited to get the win. It's a great thing for our guys, it's something they'll remember forever, but there's still more work to do."

On starting pitcher Ethan Bosacker...

"He's an absolute workhorse. He works so hard. We talk all the time about team adversity and how do we respond. That kid missed his whole season last year with Tommy John [surgery], so he had to sit on the sidelines as we came up one game short at the conference tournament to making it to the NCAA tournament. He worked like crazy. There are two ways you can go when you face adversity. You can feel sorry for yourself and pack it in, or you can get better, and Ethan got better. And that's why we're in the position we're in as a team right now, because of the success that he's having. He's an absolute competitor, and we can't wait to give him the ball. It's like he's at his best in the biggest situations throughout the course of the game. The pitch-making ability, the competitiveness, there's not much more you can ask for from a starting pitcher than what you get out of Ethan on a regular basis."

On Andrew Walker...

"He's a kid that's worked really hard to get where he is. He was pretty lightly recruited out of high school and redshirted his freshman year because he wasn't ready to contribute, and he's just continued to grind. We're a team full of underdogs. We're a team full of guys who have a chip on their shoulder and have something to prove. I haven't been gifted a whole lot to get where we're at right now. I love being a part of that. I love coaching those guys. Those guys show up and compete every single day, and Andrew's a great example of that. There's not a harder worker, there's not a better teammate. There's not a kid that's more invested in what we ask our guys to be invested in, and to see that pay off and get the three-run home run to extend the lead is pretty cool and rewarding."

On pitching tomorrow...

"[Luke] Hoskins will start for us. Luke's been great. He's given us a good chance to win every time he's gone out there. Again, we don't know who we're playing yet, but I think we're gonna go out there and throw strikes, pound the zone and let the defense make the plays. Whoever we're playing we're gonna have to go out there and score some runs, but I think Luke is gonna give us a chance to win tomorrow."

Ethan Bosacker • Sr. • RHP

On the game...

"That was the game plan going in, getting ahead. Hats off to them [Eastern Illinois]. They battled. They didn't let me strike them out. They were very aggressive later in the count. And that's a good team. They deserve to be here just as much as we do, so hats off to them."

Andrew Walker • Gr. • Outfield

On his three-run home run...

"It's a good feeling. You know the wind, particularly over the past two days, has been howling and some balls that you think might fall haven't been falling. So I put one up in the air, and I was kind of worried for a second. I was thinking, 'I hit that well,' but I wasn't really sure if it was going or not. But it was a great feeling to get it over the fence and extend our lead and give Ethan a little more comfort, because we knew Ethan was dialed in, so I think we were in good shape."